

DISC Newsletter

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July 2004



<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
BOT Installation	1, 2, & 3
Rick Miller	4
Employee Info	5
Kudos	6

DISC NEWSLETTER

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An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Section Articles

We will be presenting articles from sections within DISC each month. For July the article is from BOT: Installation and Services.

BOT Installation & Services By Rick Willoughby

Prior to June 1985 the State of Kansas leased virtually all of its telephones and associated equipment from AT&T. On June 3, 1985 the Bureau of Telecommunications hired six technicians to replace the leased equipment in Shawnee County with State-owned equipment, and what is now known as the Installation and Service Group was born.

As one recently retired staff member often said, "The best way to describe what we do is we pave the information highway." Today the Installation and Service Group is responsible for the telecommunications infrastructure for the majority of state agencies. This includes installing and maintaining all equipment and cabling from the point of entry from such service providers as SBC and Sprint to the employees' workstations. A day at work for our technicians might include crawling through an underground tunnel to install a fiber optic cable, maneuvering their way through a maze of pipes and ductwork above a ceiling to install an intricate run of cable tray, crouching in a freezing cold hole in the ground late into the night repairing a cable damaged by a backhoe, or bracing against high winds on a rooftop while installing cable to a satellite dish. Other responsibilities include the configuration, installation and maintenance of routers and switches located in facilities in all 105 counties.

With the increase in responsibility the number of staff has grown as well. The group is now comprised of 15 staff members providing service to customers across the state. Some of the larger projects we have undertaken that have

been completed or are currently in progress include the Curtis State Office Building, the Wichita State Office Building, the Statehouse Renovation Project, the Larned and Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complexes, and the Harrison Center Renovation.

When timelines get tight or a critical situation arises, this group bands together as a cohesive team to accomplish their goals, as they did recently when they collectively logged 315 hours of overtime over a three-day holiday weekend so a June 15 completion deadline at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex would not be missed. Each staff member brings many years of experience, as well as unique talents and abilities to his or her job. These folks are dedicated, hard working, and take pride in what they do.

Larry Buckles has 21 years of experience in telecommunications, with two and a half of them being at DISC. His career path includes positions with the University of Texas, Bell South in Texas, and the Menninger Clinic in Topeka. Larry is an avid railroad enthusiast and has traveled on trains since he was a young boy. He estimates that he has ridden the rails for over 300,000 miles and plans to take more trips in the future. His other interests include fishing, hunting, camping, and sports. Larry is married and has two children.

Dan Czajkowski has worked with DISC for two years now and has a total of 22 years experience in telecommunications. Dan joined us after finishing a 20-year career in the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, California. He spends a lot of his spare time studying at Allen County Community College in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in

BOT Installation & Services continued

Electronics and Computer Technical Engineering. Any time he has left he likes to spend with his two daughters and he also enjoys a good game of billiards.

Evan Desbien has 19 years of service now with DISC. Evan is one of the three remaining charter members of the Installation and Service Group. He is married and is a big fan of Kansas State Football. He also enjoys cycling and various outside activities.

Andy Dworak has five and a half years of experience in the telecommunications industry, having served three and a half of these years at DISC. Prior to joining our team, Andy worked with us as a contractor from Tele Data Contractors out of Kansas City. Andy likes to hunt, fish, and sing karaoke on a regular basis.

Chuck Engel has been working in the telecommunications/electronics field for 31 years. He's been with DISC 14 of those years. Chuck started his career in the Navy where he served for seven years. He also worked for National Semiconductor Corp. in Sunnyvale, California and Retail Data Systems, Inc. in Topeka. Chuck is married and has two grown children and a granddaughter he loves spending time with. He also enjoys scuba diving and remodeling homes.

Dana Jolley has almost 19 years of service for the State of Kansas. She started her career with the Secretary of State's Office and joined DISC in 1988. If you've ever visited Dana's office you are already aware that she goes by a couple of other names. If you haven't, go see her name plates and she will explain them to you. Dana stays busy away from work raising two boys and watching them compete in various sports. She also enjoys playing softball and getting in a round of golf when she has a chance.

Eric Hollaway is another charter member of the Installation and Service Group with 19 years of service at DISC. Eric is married with a young daughter and likes to spend his spare time with his family. He also stays involved in various activities at his church.

John Lundin has 17 years of telecommunications experience, four and a half of which are with DISC. Prior to becoming a member of DISC John worked with us as a contractor for 4 years from Tele Data Contractors out of Kansas City. John originated his career in the Army where he served seven years. While in the Army, one of John's responsibilities was to travel in advance of the President of the United States to setup, operate, and maintain communication sites at various locations throughout the world. He also served as a shift supervisor of the White House technical control facility. John is married with four children and loves to play golf and participate in various other sports and activities.

Mike Meyer has worked in the telecommunications/electronics field for 30 years. He has been with DISC for four years. Mike has the responsibility of managing the day-to-day operation of our Storeroom. He previously worked at the Department of Revenue for 11 years before joining us. Mike served in the Marine Corps from 1974 through 1978. He has also acquired job experience working at companies such as PRC Inc., Cytex Media Systems, Physio Technology Inc., and Logan Business Machines. Mike is married and enjoys working with computers and doing home remodeling projects.

Continued on page 3

BOT Installation & Services_{continued}

Mark Peralta has 27 years of service with the State of Kansas. His career at DISC started in 1980. Mark has a son and two daughters and enjoys spending time with them and his fiancé. His other interests include listening to music, collecting records, and trying his luck at the billiard table. Mark also has a lot of fun cruising in his classic 1970 Chevelle.

Gary Pinger's tenure with the State of Kansas started almost 40 years ago in September of 1964. He has been with DISC since 1973. Gary is married with one son. He likes to spend his spare time at the YMCA, going for walks, and reading.

Pam Rodecap has been a State of Kansas employee since 1973. She began her career with the State at SRS and also worked at KDOT and the Kansas Legislature. She joined DISC almost 12 years ago and has been part of the Installation and Service team for the past nine years. Next to ensuring that everyone's timesheets are accurate and entered into the SHARP system so we can get paid, Pam's primary responsibility is to maintain our cable records database. Pam lives in the country and loves to spend time doing things outside such as gardening or going for walks. She is also currently in the middle of finishing her basement. Pam is married and has one grown son.

Dwight Tolbert has been with DISC almost 11 years. Prior to his career in telecommunications, Dwight worked at Goodyear for 25 years. He has one grown son and enjoys hunting and farming during his free time.

Dave Willoughby's career at DISC started 12 years ago. He came to us from Target where he had worked for almost 8 years following another 8-year stint at Oldham's Sausage in Holton. Dave likes to play softball, attend college and professional sporting events, and enjoys helping friends out around their farms.

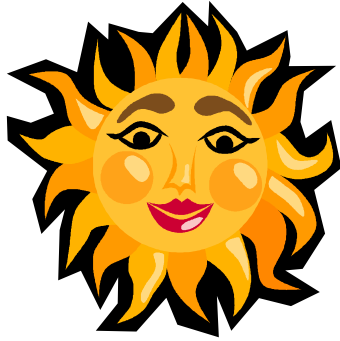
Rick Willoughby is the final charter member of the Installation and Service Group. He has 19 years of service with DISC. Rick is married and spends most of his spare time chasing around his 10 month-old son. He also enjoys a variety of outdoor activities and is looking forward to attending CHL hockey games in Topeka again.



Rick Miller

On Friday, July 9th, 2004, the Kansas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Policy Board hosted a reception and recognition for Rick Miller, former GIS Director, Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) Director, and Chief Information Technology Architect for Kansas. Rick received thanks and recognition from Joe Harkins, Policy Board chairman and former Director of the Kansas Water Office, as well as many other State, Federal, and Private Industry leaders for his nearly 10 years of developing and leading GIS initiatives in Kansas. Especially noted was the fact that Kansas placed #1 in the GIS division of the National Digital States Survey, three years running during this time. Rick continues to be involved in several regional and national GIS endeavors, and hopes to remain close to Kansas' GIS developments. Ivan Weichert, recently named to follow Rick as GIS Director for Kansas, presented Rick with a plaque and the deep appreciation of his many friends and colleagues in the industry.





EMPLOYEE INFO

*Happy July
Birthdays to:*



Scott Steves

Doug Quinn

Janelle Burgardt

John Lowrey

John Jones

Virginia Fuemmeler

Pam Shadduck

Cheryl Shaughnessy

Julie Niehues

John Harper

Larry Caldwell

Jenny Warner

LaTonya Drakes

Terry Howarter

Janice Yokum

Vickie Rogers

Marsha Rogers

Doug Walsh

Andy Dworak

Births & Adoptions

Rick Willoughby's
adopted Son,
Ryan



Cathy Nicoletti's
Grand Niece
Gracie



David Lord's
Grandson
Camden



Congratulations Everyone!

**Department of
Administration**

**Division of Information
Systems and
Communications (DISC)**

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Meeting Our Customer's Needs

Kudos

BOT

To: Andy Dworak, Dan Czajkowski, Dana Jolley, Dave Willoughby, Dwight Tolbert, Eric Hollaway, Evan Desbian, Gary Pinger, John Lundin, Larry Buckles, Mark Peralta, Mike Meyer, Pam Rodecap

I'm not very good at this sort of thing, but I need to say something to all of you. I am so grateful that I work with you people. You all seem to find a reason to keep on pushing when the times call for it. These past few weeks have been real killers. I don't know if you know it, but we put in 315 work hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and I didn't hear one of you complain about it. You all missed out on the entire 3 day weekend, after many of you missed out on the Memorial Day weekend. Not one negative word was uttered. I know that it isn't the pay that motivated you. It just isn't all that good. The only thing that I can come up with is simply this. You weren't going to allow us to fail. As long as I've been here I can't remember a single time that our group has failed to meet a deadline, and I'm sure that it was the same prior to me. It's not money that motivates. Motivation is something that comes from within. Either you have it or you don't. This group may have it's internal squabbles from time to time, but when faced with the threat of failure, we always seem to find a way to beat back the hordes.

From: Chuck Engel, BOT

KITO

To: Vickie Rogers

I met with Vickie Rogers and a few of her people the other day regarding the background, history and requirements for project management. It was informative and probably the only thing that could have been better would have been to have the meeting sooner. They did a nice job.

From: Brian Huesers, KDHE

BAS

To: Sara Johnson, Lisa Brown, Desi Gomez

Thank you for the GREAT job you did on completing the BOT storeroom move, the 2nd floor move and related activities. I know it was hard work. You always come through for DISC when the going gets tough (and dirty). Thank you.

From: Morey Sullivan, DISC

BDAS

To: Sarah Gigous and Cathy Jones

Thanks to both of you and your respective staffs that assisted Sara, Lisa and Desi on the 2nd floor moving. Your folks jumped in and helped and it did not go unnoticed. Please thank each of them for me.

From: Morey Sullivan, DISC

BOT

To: Mary Winans and Randy Drum

Big thanks to Mary and Randy for their help lately with our system. Lots of technical stuff I barely understand, but our server has been shutting down lately, and of course we don't find out until we try to log on in the morning. Service is prompt, very good—and professional. Great People.

From: Mark Braun, Administrative Hearings

BIS

To: Dan Rethman and Scott Bickel

A GIANT "Thank You" to Dan and Scott for helping us restore the JCL jobs that didn't make it to Chicago, during the Business Recovery exercise in June. The UMB wire test could not have happened without them. I've dealt with Dan on the phone before and he has always been extremely helpful, so I was glad to meet him. He also provided me with some knowledge on how to check for the successful completion of those jobs on a daily basis using the tools I already have available to me. I can't express my gratitude enough for those folks helping us avoid a situation where the test would not even have been executed.

From: Treasurer's Office

Great Job Everyone!!